II. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) A method of selecting a message transformation in a distributed message processing system, said system including message transformation means for transforming an input message in any of a plurality of formats recognised by one component of said system into an output message in one of a plurality of different formats recognised by another component of said system and a message log for storing representative samples of messages processed by the respective system components; said selection tool comprising :

means for determining the compatibility of each field of each of said plurality of input message formats with one or more fields of said plurality of output message formats by comparing at least one of a name of each field of said plurality of input message formats with names of fields in the representative samples of messages and a type of each field of said plurality of input message formats with types of fields in the representative samples of messages;

means for analysing the message fields in the representative samples of messages stored in said message log to get a statistical analysis of the values of the message fields by examining values of data in the message fields of the representative samples of messages in an input message format and values of data in the message fields of the representative samples of messages for the plurality of output message formats; and

selection means responsive to said compatibility determination and said statistical analysis to select the best fit output message field into which to transform a given input message field.

8. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 7 in which said statistical analysis step produces the numerical distribution of values in said message fields and said selection step selects the best fit distribution for all said compatible fields.

9. (Original) A method claimed in claim 7 in which said selection step includes ranking output message fields according to the results of the statistical analysis.

10. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 7 in which said system further includes a message repository manager for storing meta-data for said two pluralities of message formats, said compatibility determining step comprising determining compatibility from said meta-data.

11. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 10 in which the values of said message fields include numerical values and said statistical analysis step includes the steps of analysing the range of numerical values in the respective fields and augmenting said meta-data with said range of values.

12. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 10 in which said statistical analysis step produces the numerical distribution of values in said message fields and said selection step selects the best

fit distribution for all said compatible fields and in which said meta-data for each field includes said distribution of numerical values for said field.

13-14. (Canceled).